

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00189 311117Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 /038 W
-----311121Z 121487 /13

P R 311000Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7638
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0189

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR LA TH
SUBJECT: THAI AIRWAYS SUSPENDS ITS VIENTIANE ROUTE

REF A 76 VIENTIANE 1809, B 76 VIENTIANE 2263

1. MANAGER OF THAI AIRWAYS NIYOM KOSULVITR TOLD EMBOFF
JANUARY 31 THAT RTG HAD TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED THAI
AIRWAYS FLIGHTS AS OF FEBRUARY 1 IN RESPONSE TO LAO
DEMAND THAT RTG RETURN LAO PLANES AND THEIR PILOTS
WHICH HAD RECENTLY ESCAPED TO THAILAND, AND LAO
REQUIREMENT THAT THAI AIRWAYS TURN OVER ALL PASSENGER
TICKET SALES AND CARGO ARRANGEMENT TO LAO AVIATION
BY FEBRUARY 1. NIYOM ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH LAO HAD SENT
A NOTE DEMANDING THE RETURN OF THE PILOTS FROM THAI-
LAND, LPDR OFFICIALS HAD ORALLY INDICATED THAT THEY
WOULD NOT INSIST ON THIS POINT.

2. NIYOM WAS ADAMANT THAT TICKET AND CARGO SALES
SHOULD NOT BE IN THE HANDS OF THE LAO GOVERNMENT.
"ONCE THEY GET THE THAI AIRWAYS FOREIGN EXCHANGE, WE
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WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET OUR HANDS ON IT, SO WHY FLY
HERE AT ALL." NIYOM TOLD EMBOFF THAT SHE HAD
RECOMMENDED THAI AIRWAYS CLOSE ITS VIENTIANE ROUTE
MANY MONTHS AGO WHEN THE LAO FIRST DEMANDED THAT
ALL TICKETING BE TURNED OVER TO LAO AVIATION, AS
REPORTED REF A. SHE SAID THAT SHE WAS OVERRULED AT
THAT TIME BY THE THAI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

WHICH FELT THAT THE LAO WERE BLUFFING BECAUSE THEY DID NOT HAVE THE SKILLS AND FACILITIES TO ASSUME THE OPERATIONS. MEANWHILE, LAO AVIATION HAS BEEN TRAINING A CLASS IN AIRLINE TICKETING, AS REPORTED REF B.

3. NIYOM FELT IT MAY BE A LONG TIME, IF AT ALL, BEFORE THESE OUTSTANDING ISSUES CAN BE RESOLVED SO THAT THAI AIRWAYS FLIGHTS CAN BE RESUMED.

4. UNDERSTAND THAT AEROFLOT CONTINUES TO HANDLE ITS OWN TICKET SALES IN VIENTIANE, ALTHOUGH LAO AVIATION HANDLES AIR VIETNAM SALES.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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